[Sh. Rajesh Pilot]

I can assure the House that the Government will not lag behind ...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that is over...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, the Minister has given us a very good assurance and he has also said that some enquiries would be conducted to find out the underworld connections, ill-gotten money and things like that. When such reports are in possession of the Government, if some committee asks for such information, the Government should not say that they do not keep such records for more than two weeks and things like that. This is my only request.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I assure the Members that with a very honest intention, with a sincere intention, the Government has ordered the investigation. Let me also tell you that it is a first-time order. It is our Government which has ordered it to know the underworld connections. And I assure you that nothing will be forbidden from the House and the country. We shall put the facts before the country saying that these are the people who are involved in destabilising our country. There is no love lost for anybody.

To the last question which Mr. Afzal has asked, I would like to say that security is above everything. There is no concession for any party. We should not have a feeling that just because so-and-so party is running the Government there, we have a different thing. For us, law is the guiding factor. It does not matter whether the security is for Mr. Subramanian Swamy or Rajesh Pilot. Law is above everybody.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: But what about lawyers who defend the criminals?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that matter is over. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Now we have another Minister waiting here since morning. There is one Bill which is the Cable Television Networks Regulation Bill, 1993...(*Interruptions*)

RE. NEED TO REFER THE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL, 1993 TO THE CONCERNED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, we are for referring the Bill to the Standing Committee: (*Interruptions*)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Let it go to the Standing Committee...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): It should be referred to the Standing Committee ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We all plead that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister say what he wants to say. Right now there is no need for everybody to say...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, there is a reason as to why we suggest that the Bill should go to the Standing Committee. It is not as a normal practice. It is not as a part of the ritualistic practice. This Bill contains a number of important clauses which, in our opinion, can be taken advantage of; then the Government in power taking advantage of this Bill which will turn into an Act, may order..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, I have understood it in one word...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: There was a decision that all the Bills should go to the Standing Committees. Moreover, this Bill has to be referred to the Standing Committee because of its nature and the power it would give to the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): Which Government?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Government in power.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Madam, may I move the Bill?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The thing is, there is a request that it should go to a Standing Committee. It can be moved if it is not going to a Standing Committee. We will write to the Chairman. They had a discussion in the morning with the Chairman. The Chairman will speak to the Speaker because this particular Committee is under the Lok Sabha. The Chairman will discuss with the Speaker about referring this Bill to a Standing Committee. That is all.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to say one or two words about the Bill. I would like to submit one or two words before we close the discussion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is he moving the Bill?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is moving? I have not allowed him to move the Bill. But, as a Minister, he has a right to ask for permission to say something. I asked him to say what he wants to say. You ten people had your say. I think the Minister has a right to say what he wants to say.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Madam Deputy Chairperson, after a lot of discussion in both the Houses where hon. Members were quite excited and agitated about invasion of the sky due to satellites beaming on to India, the Government took a decision to bring this Bill in response to them as also in response to the haphazard growth of the cable television networks which run into a few lakhs. It is a guesstimate. There is no real estimate. The problem is that on 15th of August, Doordarshan will be having five more channels due to the fact that INSAT-2B is already in its geostationary orbit. As the present situation stands, as long as the satellite beams are taken on a dish antenna, it is legal because the Wireless Act and the Telegraph Act permit a dish antenna in a residence or on ground. But when cables are used to divert or feed or distribute, then it is an illegality. My submission is that from the 15th month, these five channels of Doordarshan will also face the same state of affairs as the illegal distribution of cable network going on in this country. I just thought that I should mention this. That is the urgency for bringing in this Bill. I would like to abide by the decision of the Chairman.

Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have a statement also.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: it is a very short thing. Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him lay it on the Table of the House. That statement I have read. I don't think there is anything. He is bringing so many channels. What clarifications can you seek without seeing those channels? First, you see the channels. If you are satisfied, it is all right. If you are not satisfied, then we can ask the Minister to come and clarify. So, you can lay it on the Table and there are no clarifications on it. That is done.

I have ruled it. You lay it on the Table of the House.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: It is the Minister's clarification, not the Members' clarifications.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, lay it on the Table.